

## Toxic Plants

The following plants are known to be capable of poisoning humans. This list is not complete, and varying amounts are required for poisoning. Please contact the health department with questions.

Common name	Toxic Part
Azaleas	All parts
Baneberry	Berries
Bleeding Heart	Flowers, roots
Castor Bean	Seeds, leaves
Cherries	Twigs, foliage
Corn lily	Young shoots, roots
Daffodil	Bulbs
Daphne	All parts, esp. berries
Death Camas	Bulbs and leaves
Diffenbachia	All parts
Elderberry	All parts
Foxglove	Leaves
Holly	Berries
Hyacinth	Bulbs
Indian hellebore	All parts
Jasmine	Berries
Jimson Weed (Thorn apple)	All parts
Larkspur	Young plants, seeds
Laurel	All parts
Lily of the valley	Leaves, flowers
Mistletoe	Berries
Monkshood, Columbia	All parts
Narcissus	Bulbs
Nightshade	All, esp. unripe berry
Oaks	Foliage, acorns
Oleander	All parts
Pokeweed	All, esp. roots, seeds
Poison Hemlock	All parts
Potato	Sprouts, green parts
Rhododendrons	All parts
Rhubarb	Leaves, raw or cooked
Rosary Pea	Seeds
Tomato	Leaves
Western Water Hemlock	All parts

## Non-Toxic Plants

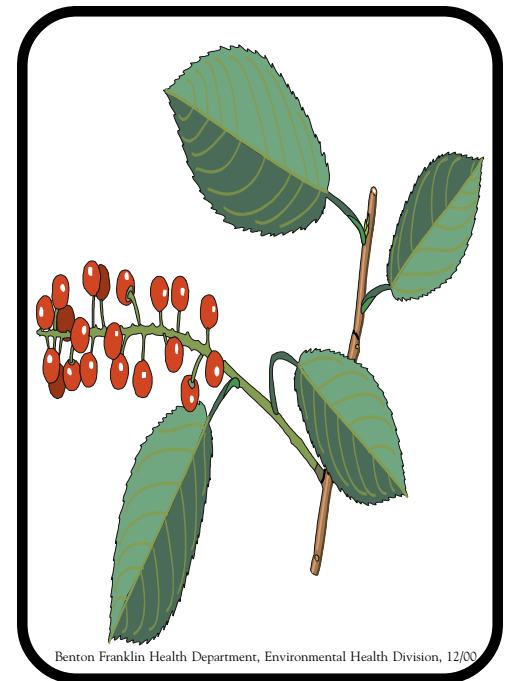
The following plants have not been documented to cause toxic symptoms when eaten in small amounts.

Common name
African violet
Begonia (except sand begonia)
Boston fern
Bromeliad
California Poppy
Coleus
Corn plant
Dandelion
Dracena
Fireweed
Fuchsia
Gardenia
Impatiens
Jade plant
Marigold
Nasturtium
Petunia
Piggyback plant
Poinsettia (formerly considered toxic)
Prayer plant
Rose
Rubber plant
Schefflera
Spider plant
Wandering Jew
Wild strawberry

For more answers:  
Benton-Franklin Health Department  
800 West Canal Drive  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
(509) 582-7761 x 246 [www.bfhd.wa.gov](http://www.bfhd.wa.gov)  
BFHD-E-0017 12/00

Additional site:  
[www.poison.org](http://www.poison.org)

# Poisonous



# Plants



# Poisonous Plants

*While most people are aware many household chemicals are poisonous, many people are unaware of poisons possibly living around their home and yard...poisonous plants. Serious poisoning from the accidental ingestion of plants is extremely rare in both adults and children, but many plants can cause illness if eaten in large quantities and some can cause severe poisoning if eaten in small amounts. Poisonous plants are often deceptive because we often use them at limited doses for medicinal purposes, safely eat them at certain times of their life-cycle, or can eat some portions of the plant while other portions of the same plant are poisonous. This brochure offers guidance on how to prevent poisonings from plant toxins, symptoms and what to do if a poisoning occurs, and lists of toxic and non-toxic plants. The lists include many of the plants common to the Pacific Northwest or commonly cultivated here, but are not designed to be all-inclusive.*

## Symptoms

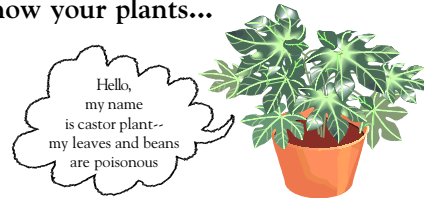
Most plants are not poisonous, but ingestions of (or contact with) some others can cause symptoms ranging from mild skin rashes, vomiting and diarrhea to symptoms of severe vomiting or diarrhea, labored breathing, internal bleeding, coma and death. As with all things, some individuals may be more sensitive or react differently to any plant.

## Prevention of poisonings, in general:

1. **Be alert...**Children and pets may not recognize poisons.
2. **Never assume** a child or pet will not eat something because it tastes bad to you.
3. **Medications...**
  - a. Keep them out of sight and out of reach--especially remember those in handbags and suitcases.
  - b. Use child-resistant caps (but remember, they are not child-proof).
  - c. Do not store in food containers.
  - d. Read, and follow, the label directions.
  - e. Do not call medication "candy" when you're trying to get a child to take the medicine.
  - f. Do not take medication in front of children--they might imitate you.
4. **Follow all labels and directions.**

## Prevention of poisonings from plants

### 1. Know your plants...



Identify all the plants in your home and yard. If you are unsure about the identity of the plant, a plant expert at a nursery, flower shop, or county extension office should be able to help you.

### 2. Choose non-toxic plants for decoration.

Check the lists or with an expert.

### 3. As with all poisons, keep poisonous plants out of the reach of children and pets.

Teach children to keep all non-food items out of their mouths.

### 4. Dispose of leaves as they die.

Dead, fallen leaves can still contain toxic chemicals.

### 5. Store seeds and bulbs away from children.

### 6. Pick and dispose of mushrooms found in your lawn.

Consider all mushrooms poisonous unless they are positively identified as safe by an expert.

## If a plant poisoning occurs...

In a **life-threatening** emergency call 911.

Otherwise, call the Poison Center for your area. For eastern Washington, the phone number for the Washington Poison Center is:  
**1(800) 732-6985.**

The Poison Center is staffed by experts 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There is no charge for the call.

### If you call Poison Control for treatment, be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. **What** was taken (exact name).
2. **When** was it taken.
3. **How** much was taken.
4. **Who** took it (condition, age, weight).
5. **Your** name and phone number

Accidental poisonings can occur in any home. While your instinct may be to act at once, the wrong treatment may be more harmful than none at all. Be prepared for a poisoning by knowing the phone number of Poison Control for your area, and by keeping ipecac syrup in the home. Ipecac syrup induces vomiting--do not use unless instructed by the Poison Center or a physician.